

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 619

By Overbey

A RESOLUTION to honor the 114<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment of World War II on the occasion of its twenty-third annual reunion.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud of those valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty in protecting our freedoms and our way of life; and

WHEREAS, October 22 through 24, 2009, the 114<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment of World War II will hold its twenty-third annual reunion in Knoxville; this is the first such reunion to be held in Tennessee and the first to be held in the South; and

WHEREAS, the Volunteer State is truly proud to host this gathering, which will be attended by approximately one hundred veterans and family members; and

WHEREAS, in October 1944, the 114<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment entered combat in Europe, and they would remain in continuous battle in France and Germany for approximately 190 days; Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years Day were days of especially difficult fighting for the men of the 114<sup>th</sup>; and

WHEREAS, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion of the 114<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment encountered a fierce and determined enemy; the Germans attacked the American defensive positions with tanks and superior manpower, but the men of the 114<sup>th</sup> maintained their positions; and

WHEREAS, when their own machine guns ran out of ammunition, the 114<sup>th</sup> still held their ground, ultimately repulsing the Germans with just rifles and courage; had the men of the 114<sup>th</sup> not stopped the enemy advance, it is likely that the Germans would have threatened the

entire 44<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division and jeopardized all friendly troops east of the Vosges Mountains in eastern France; and

WHEREAS, more than one thousand soldiers of the 114<sup>th</sup> infantry Regiment died in battle, while over four thousand were wounded; the liberty and happiness Americans enjoy today are the direct results of these sacrifices; and

WHEREAS, the people of Tennessee are honored to offer their warmest hospitality to some of the bravest Americans this nation has ever known; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we extend to the veterans and family members of the 114<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment of World War II our most cordial welcome as they convene in Knoxville for their twenty-third annual reunion, to be held October 22 through 24, 2009.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.